

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05651

PASS NSC - HUBERMAN; OSD/ISA - SLOCOMBE; NASA - TERRELL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, ENRG, MNUC, PARM, PORG, UK
SUBJECT: BILATERAL INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH UK ON
COSMOS 954

1. SUMMARY. AT UK INVITATION SMALL US GROUP MET AT FCO WITH UK GROUP TO REVIEW INFORMALLY UK DRAFT PAPER ON COSMOS 954 IMPLICATIONS BEING PREPARED FOR SUBMISSION TO UN IN LATE APRIL. PAPER WAS TECHNICAL IN NATURE LACKING POLICY DISCUSSION, AND HOSTS APPEARED AMENABLE TO SUGGESTIONS FOR REVISION. UK APPROACH IS GENERALLY DOWN-PLAYING CRITICALITY OF NUCLEAR POWERED SATELLITES AND GENERALLY DESCRIBES THE COMPARABLE DAMAGE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES SUCH AS AUTO DEATHS PER YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY S.E. DOYLE, NASA; R. EDDINGTON, STATE OES/APT/SA; AND J. GRANGER, SCIENCE COUNSELOR, AMEMBASSY LONDON. ON THE UK SIDE ATTENDEES WERE: R. ALSTON AND D. LLOYD, ENERGY, SCIENCE AND SPACE DEPT, FCO; H. ROBINSON, DEPUTY HEAD, RAE, FARN-
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BOROUGH; W. SAXBY, HEAD OF DEFENSE SCIENCE 3, MOD;
B. WADE, ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT, HARWELL;
AND R. RISCONI, ASTRONOMY, SPACE AND RADIO DIVISION,
SRC.

3. MEETING LASTED TWO HOURS AND FOCUSED ON REVIEW OF UK DRAFT PAPER. COPIES BEING CARRIED TO DEPT AND NASA BY

EDDINGTON AND DOYLE RESPECTIVELY. UK REQUESTS ANY US COMMENTS ARRIVE IN LONDON BY COB FRIDAY, APRIL 14 TO PERMIT INCORPORATION INTO NEXT DRAFT DUE TO UK MINISTERS NEXT WEEK. PREPARATION OF PAPER WAS UNDOUBTEDLY AT REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL CLEARANCE BEFORE SUBMISSION TO UN.

4. UPON REVIEW OF THE DRAFT UK SUMMARY PAPER THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS MADE THE FOLLOWING INFORMAL SUGGESTIONS:

A. PROVIDE A BRIEF INTRODUCTION THAT SETS THE PURPOSE AND POSSIBLY THE SCOPE.

B. INCLUDE A CALL TO OTHER COUNTRIES ACTIVE IN SPACE ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THEIR PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THAT PROVIDED BY THE U.S. AT THE UN S&T CONFERENCE.

C. NARROW THE SCOPE TO ADDRESS NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES RATHER THAN THE ENTIRE ISSUE OF "REGULATION OF SPACE ACTIVITIES".

D. SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK IN THE S&T SUB-COMMITTEE TO FORM FACTUAL BASIS FOR LATER WORK IN THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

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E. REASSESS THE CONCLUSION REGARDING THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH NUCLEAR REACTORS.

F. DISCOURAGE REFERENCE TO AND INCLUSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO POTENTIAL IMPACT ON CIVIL AVIATION, POINTING OUT THAT THIS WILL ALSO RAISE MARITIME CONCERNS.

5. U.S. PARTICIPANTS MADE CLEAR TO U.K. THAT U.S.G. IS STILL IN PROCESS OF ASSESSING POSITION ON USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE, THAT COMMENTS BY U.S. PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE INFORMAL, AND THAT AS SOON AS U.S.G. POLICY IS FORMULATED IT WILL BE PROVIDED TO U.K.

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